

Buckley  
Elementary  
School

# Bobcat News

A Great Place  
to Grow and  
Explore

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## Principal's Corner

January 2014



Welcome Back! I hope you had a wonderful vacation and a Happy New Year! I also hope you had the time and opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends. As we enter into a new year, I would like to take this time to remind everyone of a few of our security measures that we have here at Buckley School.

- Please know, that we conduct emergency drills (fire drills and lockdown drills) on a monthly basis;
- Staff are assigned at our doorways on Vernon Street and Barry Road in the morning and afternoon to ensure that your child is supervised;
- All parents/guardians must continue to check in and sign in at the main office when entering the building. If you are visiting a classroom, this must be approved prior to the date of the visit. **Once you sign in at the main office, you will receive a visitor's badge. All visitor's MUST wear a badge when in the building;**
- All visitors must ring the bell in order to enter the building;
- Please note that parents/guardians cannot drop off their child or pick up their child in the classroom;
- When picking up your child you may be asked to present identification. Please note that this is for the safety of your child.

I appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we continue to monitor our safety system here at Buckley School.

In addition to the above, the following are friendly reminders:

- Please do not have your child slide down the hill before or immediately after school;
- Please know that there is no snowball throwing on school grounds or walking to and from school;
- Our doors open at 8:50; please do not have your child arrive prior

### **Bobcat Central**

250 Vernon Street  
Manchester, CT  
06042

Phone: (860) 647-3302  
Fax: (860) 647-5007  
Illness: (860) 647-3344  
Nurse: (860) 647-3303

to this unless they are coming to the breakfast program;

- We have provided for you a guideline for making decisions specific to sending or not sending a sick child to school. This is located in the nurse's section of this newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the wonderful participation with the **PTA** sponsored book fair. Because of your participation, we had a very successful 2013 book fair. Also, thank you to the **PTA** for sponsoring the book fair. We truly appreciate their commitment to Buckley School and all their hard work. Because of this, we had a wonderful event. Please know that the students enjoyed it immensely. I would also like to thank the **PTA** for their Holiday Store that was held on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The excitement in our school was amazing! Thank you!

Lastly, I have been making additional attempts at communicating through not only the school website but also through School Messenger e-mails. Please make sure that you have updated all your pertinent information including home numbers and e-mail. Moving forward, I will utilize School Messenger e-mails for communicating events, newsletters, etc.

I wish everyone a wonderful and Happy New Year!

Fondly,

*Matthew Daly*  
Matthew Daly

**Please Note:** Thank you so much for all of your 'Candy Cane for a Cure' orders! Because of your support, we raised over \$300.00 for our Relay for Life team! Way to go Buckley! Also, I will be sending an e-mail with two flyers regarding our Relay for Life team. Please take the time to look at these important flyers regarding our team. Thank you!

## Kindergarten

December was a busy time in kindergarten! Families were our focus as we talked about special times spent together. Busy hands were making gifts to share with loved ones. We enjoyed seasonal songs and stories, as well as, performing in the winter concert. In math, we continued to practice teen numbers and we see improvement each day. Please continue to practice reading, writing and recognizing these numbers. Our letter sounds are coming along nicely. Continue to encourage your child in their recognition of letters, sounds and words and to use the “sound and say” strategy. Also, please practice zippering coats at home so we’ll be able to go out in the cold weather. Thank for meeting with us during conference time. We appreciate all of your support! We hope you enjoy special moments with your families this holiday season. Our best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hoffman, Mrs. Budman and Ms. Lavallee

## First Grade

The month of December was very busy for our first graders! We spent some time learning about the variety of holidays that people celebrate during this time of the year! It was interesting to hear about the different traditions that families have!

In reading, we continue to practice retelling the stories that we read. First graders know that it is important to remember the characters, the setting, the problem, and the solution of the stories that we read. We are also trying to deepen our understanding of what we read by finding connections between what we read and our own lives and experiences!

We have started our place value unit in math and are learning many new games and activities that give us an opportunity to use our new place value knowledge! First graders should understand and be able to identify tens and ones based on our work so far in class,

During the month of January we look forward to reading more non-fiction text about animals and starting our animal research projects. We will continue with our work on place value in math.

Happy 2014!!

Thank you,

Mrs. Bourcier and Ms. Seaha

## Second Grade

Wow! How quickly the time from Thanksgiving break to Winter break passed! The sweet smell of sugar and spice filled the air as second graders culminated our reading unit on informational text. Our students are able

to identify special text features that provide quick bits of information that accompany the written text. As you read nightly, ask your child to locate captions, headings, glossaries, labels, and diagrams. These features helped

us focus on the main idea (the big idea) about texts and the details that support them.

In math, we are wrapping up our unit on place value through 1,000. Our math groups and centers empha-

sized the use of base ten blocks, writing number words through 1,000, writing the expanded form (or value of a number), skip counting, comparing numbers, and mystery word problems.

Please remember to have your child practice their subtraction mental math facts over our holiday break. Here's a fun math game to play on those long car rides, perhaps?

Find my rule: 3 & 10, 7 & 14, 100 & 107

(What's my rule? Answer= Add 7). Make up your own. Try subtraction, too!

Our unit on nutrition seemed fitting during this very busy and festive time! Our students are able to identify the 5 foods groups and recognize some healthy snack choices to stay active.

We wish you and your family a wonderful and safe vacation! We look forward to working with your children in 2014!

Thank you,  
Ms. Jones, Ms. Strickland, and Mrs. Adinolfi

## Third Graders

Happy New Year! Manchester is implementing a new writing initiative by Lucy Calkins. There are four units of study: Narrative, Information Writing, Persuasive, and Fairy Tales. Teachers in the district are currently assembling resources to build quality units of study for each grade and unit. Please google Lucy Calkins to find out more about this exciting new program based off the Writing Workshop Model! We are also continuing to implement the new common core in Language Arts and

that means that this month we are focusing on phonics such as prefixes and suffixes through our spelling homework and daily classwork. We are also moving on from our very thorough unit on Nonfiction into the world of Narratives to match our writing workshop focus. Many families share their stories, and these narratives are exactly what we are trying to share with our students. We are differentiating between a "news report" narrative and a "storytelling" narrative. Ask your child to share with you examples of

each!

In the new common core Math curriculum, we are still in the land of Place Value. Having conquered adding of three digit numbers and all of the strategies therein, we are moving to subtraction strategies such as regrouping, break apart, and using place value pictures. The goal of the common core is to be able to solve addition and subtraction problems in numerous ways. We will then be moving onto the concept of estimation, rounding, and number lines.

Here are some websites that the children can practice these skills.

<http://mrnussbaum.com/rounding-2/>

<http://www.mathnook.com/math/skill/roundinggames.php>

[http://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/staff/boldtkatherine/MathResources3-6/Math\\_Rounding&Estimating.htm](http://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/staff/boldtkatherine/MathResources3-6/Math_Rounding&Estimating.htm)

Thank you!

Mr. Sweetland, Mrs. Edwards and Mr. Murphy

## Fourth Grade

Happy New Year! This is the best time of the year for concentrated academic study. Please do all you can to keep your child well rested. We don't want anyone to miss a minute of fourth grade!

Throughout January, we continue our study of fractions. We have thought about how fractions are related and interchangeable, generated equivalent fractions, ordered and compared fractions, touched on decimal fractions and decimal notation. The children should understand that fractions and decimals are interchangeable. We will begin building understanding of adding, subtracting, and multiplication of fractions this month. As you can see, the children will have to use their understanding of operations with whole numbers in order to compute fractions. Of the eight units in fourth grade, two involve fractions so don't be surprised when we are still working on fractions in February. Watch for computation practice to come home

as well. You know what they say, "If you don't use it, you lose it," so we can never let up on computation. Multiple digit fluency is a critical area of focus in the new Common Core State Standards.

In Language Arts, we are working our way through the types of writing required in the new curriculum. We have already written realistic fiction (narratives), completed some information writing, and are now moving to the next area, persuasive essays (opinions). In reading, the children are working in small groups and with partners to practice multiple skills. Speaking and listening is part of the Common Core. A suggestion to consider, instead of having your child complete their nightly independent reading by reading to themselves, you could have them read aloud to you.

You'll be hearing about US Geography and Electricity this month too. Look for op-

tional homework projects in your child's folder. As always, thank you for your support.

Thank you,  
Ms. Marocchini, Ms. Godbout and Ms. Hoke

## Fifth Grade

We hope you and your family return from winter vacation having had a restful and relaxing time together. Sitting around the warm fire is a nice time to enjoy a wonderful book. We ask your help in encouraging your child to continue to follow the reading program. This semester, they have specific genres to be reading, and when they finish those they can read anything they please. Reading every day is a wonderful way for your child to improve reading fluency, not to mention the enjoyment of sharing a good book with you! Practice by example and everyone wins!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if you lived during the colonial period in New England? We are going to spend the months of January and February stepping back in history to the colonial era in our social studies unit. Soon your child will be able to share with you what life was like long ago.

All fifth grade students continue to experience the challenges of problem solving, both with our math studies for Math Olympiads competition, and in our everyday math class lessons. We are learning to be divergent thinkers and respectful of each other's opinions, and to work cooperatively as a team towards solutions to everyday real-life problems.

January to February affords us uninterrupted time to focus on fifth grade curriculum. It is very important for students to come to school well rested and ready to learn. For example, when planning those "sleepovers", a Friday night allows for more recovery time than a Saturday night. With the holidays winding down, home and school can work together to concentrate on school success.

In closing, Ms. Brahm and Mrs. Jodoin want to extend our wishes for a safe, happy, and healthy 2014 to you and your families! Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Thank you,  
Ms. Brahm and Mrs. Jodoin

## MAP News

This month we began our winter theme. We talked about the specific clothing we need to keep our bodies warm in the cold weather. We made penguins, gingerbread boys and gingerbread girls. Our circle rhymes were "5 Little Snowflakes" and "10 Little Snowballs". Both rhymes help us to practice our counting skills. We read the books, The Jingle Bell Ball by Jenny Arthur and One Snowy Night by Beth Harwood. We are looking forward to spending the vacation with our families.

Thank you!  
Mrs. Rodowicz

## Media Center

Happy New Year! As the winter weather is upon us, you can entertain your little ones with stories such as Lisa Cook's **Martin MacGregor's Snowman**, where a winter without snow forces champion snowman builder Martin to look for other materials he can substitute for the real thing. Or perhaps Nancy Poydar's **Snip, Snip-- Snow** will have your family making their own snowflakes. If you remember your grandparent's stories of walking miles to school in a blizzard, try James Stevenson's **Brrr!** where grandpa describes the really cold winter of 1908. Caralyn Buchner's **Snowmen at Night** shows what snowmen do when you're sleeping. However, if the snow starts to fly, Alice Schertle has created a terrific how- to book, **How to Build a Snowman**. So cuddle up with your child, a cup of cocoa and share a book or two together.

**We would also like to thank the PTA for creating an amazing Book Fair and for their generosity to the Library and the classrooms by providing us with some wonderful new books.**

Wishing all of our Buckley families a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year!

Thank you!  
Ms. Lake

## Literacy Corner

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe & happy vacation! Welcome to 2014!

I would like to thank those parents who attended the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) informational meeting that we held at Buckley School in November. At that meeting, we talked about the instructional shifts taking place across the state as a result of Connecticut adopting the CCSS. For those of you who were unable to attend, the following is a brief summary of the six major shifts taking place in regards to literacy:

Shift #1 – Students will read equal amounts of fiction (50%) and nonfiction texts (50%) at the elementary level.

Shift #2 – Students will spend more time reading in the content areas (Science & Social Studies).

Shift #3 – All students will be exposed to complex text (through shared reading and read alouds) and will spend more time engaging in conversations about complex texts.

Shift #4 – Students will be expected to dig more deeply into texts to find specific evidence to support their thoughts and opinions.

Shift #5 – Students will be analyzing multiple texts, forming opinions and conclusions, and writing from multiple text sources.

Shift #6 – An emphasis will be placed on building vocabulary that is common throughout all content areas and on teaching strategies for discovering relationships among words.

Thank you!  
Mrs. O'Malley



# Sensational Specials

## ART

Our focus this month has been on winter which came at us fast and strong! It was so exciting to be able to start our Kindergarten Winter Landscapes after the freshly fallen snow. In First grade, we created our tigers in the grass. Learning to draw the tiger with basic geometric shapes was our first step and then we painted them orange. Our next step will be to add the pattern of stripes on our tiger. One of my favorite projects this past month was our bird in the style of Lois Ehlert. We first made patterned papers. The patterns were drawn with crayon and then we painted over them. The wax from the crayon blocked out the paint to create a crayon-resist. After tracing different shapes on the back of these papers, we cut them out and put the pieces together to make our birds. We tried to use pieces of different patterns that we shared to make all the different parts of our birds. We also created paper to resemble the texture of a birch tree. After gluing down the tree trunks and branches, we added our bird. Then, it began to snow! The final step was to sponge print the snow. The results were colorful and fun. Many of our birds were hanging at our winter concert. Third graders have been learning about warm and cool colors. They have also been drawing some winter animals. Soon, we will be creating our winter scenes. In Fourth grade, we are working with negative and positive shapes and are in the process of creating a collage of a Figure in Action. The Fifth graders are finishing up their Radial Symmetry designs. Our winter silhouettes will be next! Congratulations to Mr. Sweetland's

class for earning 10 Gold Stars for Being Respectful, Being Responsible, and Being Safe during Art!. Mrs. Maloney

## P.E.

Winter weather is here and along with that comes snow and ice. Many of our Bobcats are wearing winter boots to school and we all agree that is a great choice on some of our wet and snowy days. Please remember to pack a pair of sneakers on the days that you have Physical Education class so you can change when you get here. Sneakers are the safest shoes for moving around the gym floor and playing really cool games. Thank you!!!!!!

There have been so many different activities going on in the gym. The past couple of weeks have been a mix of seasonal games, tag medleys and new challenges involving buckets and stacking.

Farmers in the Pumpkin Patch involved team work, running, throwing and dodging skills. Ask your child about the farmers, the rotten pumpkins and the turkeys!

Members of the Manchester Physical Education staff have attended several workshops this fall. While some of the focus has been on the new teacher evaluation, we were also able to learn some valuable new activities to share with our students. Presently we are using gallon size buckets for a variety of stacking activities, building games and a Rock, Paper Scissors challenge that involves small group work, problem solving and quick thinking. It is a break from our traditional activities but a wel-

come challenge to our students of all ages.

Thank you!

Mr. Kolze and Ms. Falkowski

## MUSIC

Greetings from the music room!

For the month of December we worked very hard to get ready for our Winter Concert. Solos were auditioned for, dances were learned, and boomwhackers were whacked! Everyone did an amazing job at the performance. Keep up the good work!

When not working on concert preparations, kindergartners have been listening to new songs like "The Derby Ram" - where the Ram is tall enough to reach the moon! 1st graders have been listening to different versions of songs like "The Fox Went Out" and choosing which they prefer. 2nd grade has been using various balls, scarves, and bean-bags to attempt to perform "Plainsies, Clapsies."

3rd, 4th, and 5th grades have been making progress in the Mad Music Minute. Some classes have almost done all 10 tries! Stay tuned for next month, where we will see who made it all the way to level G! The older grades have also been working on rhythms, dotted notes (du), quarter note-eighth note combos (du-di), and rests. Keep up the good work!

Keep singing, everybody!  
Mrs. Leonard



# Nurse's Corner

## MANCHESTER SCHOOLS SICK CHILDREN...send or stay home? Guidelines for Parents

Deciding when a child is too sick to go to school can be a difficult decision for parents to make. When trying to decide, use the guidelines below and seek the advice of your health care provider.

If your child has a temperature of 100.4 he/she must stay home. Your child cannot return to school until the fever has been gone for at least 24 hours.

**COLDS:** Your child must stay home if he/she has a thick, colored discharge from the nose or has a wheezing, croupy cough. For more severe symptoms, your child must remain at home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone and the appetite returns to normal.

**CONJUNCTIVITIS: (PINK EYE)** When the white of the eye is clear (no redness), which is at least 24 hours after the child begins using antibiotic eye drops, he/she is no longer contagious and may return to school.

**STREP THROAT:** Your child may return to school when the temperature is normal for at least 24 hours and the child has taken antibiotics for at least 24 hours. All severe sore throats and swollen glands should be evaluated by a health care provider.

**RASH:** Your child should stay home and be evaluated by a health care provider for any unknown rashes.

**IMPETIGO:** Your child may return to school only after using prescribed medication for at least 24 hours. Infected areas must be covered when child returns. The child may not return to school with open, oozing sores.

**VOMITING:** Your child may not return to school until there is no fever or vomiting for at least 24 hours and has tolerated at least two normal meals.

In the event that your child does not have a fever, if they are exhibiting negative changes in behavior, temperament, or classroom performance due to various health concerns (i.e. fatigue, colds, constipation, etc.) you will be called to pick up your child.

Please consider the health of your child and the other children in the class and follow these guidelines before sending your child back to school. You will be called by the school nurse to come and pick up your child from school in the event that these guidelines are not met.

Please keep these guidelines handy in order to determine when your child can come back to school after being ill.

Thank you,  
Mrs. AuYeung



## PBIS Corner

Our **PBIS** team has continued to meet monthly and refine the program that is currently in place here at Buckley. We continue to identify three students from each class per month from Kindergarten through fifth grade to receive recognition at our monthly **PBIS** Pep Rally. All students will have a chance to be recognized by the end of the school year.

The following students were selected to receive recognition for the month of December. They were selected as having shown exemplary behavior in one of the three **PBIS** categories. These students participated in a fun activity during our Fun Friday!

### Be Safe

- K. Braeden Keene, Owen Blake, Loren Roca
- 1. Alexa Renduchintala, Karla Daha
- 2. Sophie Reyes, Cayden Blaschik, Lindsay Jackson
- 3. Usman Avais, Arjun Roy, Solange Thomas
- 4. Katie Neubauer, Madison Boilard, Bianca Boutot
- 5. Isaiah Brothers, Brooke Mercer

### Mrs. Rodowicz

Tyson Cummins

### Mrs. Lonergan

Zakeya Jones

### Be Respectful

- K. Carina Brown, Makai Badeau, Tessa MacDonald
- 1. Matthew Spiewak, Mobeen Mian
- 2. Elliot Johnson, Austin March, Jonathan Daub
- 3. Gilliam Lamphere, Christopher Downs, Alayshia Bell
- 4. Emma Greenfield, Stephen Gagnon, Christopher Lascano
- 5. Jack McHugh, Aidan Quinn

### Be Responsible

- K. Vanessa Miazga, Blake Ruffini, Carmella Ortega
- 1. Bailey Downey, Lauren Smith
- 2. Lilliana Andreoli, Anthony Gonzalez, Giovanni Carr
- 3. Daydrianna Matos, Camden Becker, Raif, Rashid
- 4. Lyla Ratches, Sabrina Keovilay, Jamie Dykstra
- 5. William Keovilay, Luis Salazar

Congratulations to everyone who was recognized! When you are in the building, please stop by our bulletin board in the main foyer to see photographs of our exemplary Buckley Bobcats!



## Café Time

Hi from the Cafeteria!

Can you believe we've come to the end of 2013? As many of our students know, we've been trying new recipes and I hope this keeps going on this way. Have any of our students tried any other new food, or recipes? In 2014 I'm hoping to check out some new produce that I'm not familiar with. There are plenty of other fruits and vegetables out there that we haven't tried yet.

With all this cold weather it's important to remember to eat healthy foods and drink plenty of fluids. Your body needs the best nutritional foods you can get during the cold weather. This helps keep you as healthy as possible. With it being cold outside, and the heat on inside, you need to drink plenty of water and/or juice to keep you from getting dehydrated. Miss Rose and I have noticed our students are buying more water at this time of year.

This is also the time of year to wear layers of clothing. It would be great if our students would wear a sweatshirt or sweater to use during the day at school. When they come to the cafeteria we ask them to take off their heavy coats, hats, gloves, etc. They don't realize that when they are wearing heavy clothing they bump into other students and their trays. We end up with quite a few spills. We have some students who try to get their breakfast with gloves or mittens on, and this can be a bit difficult. Just some things to think about when you talk to your child. For now enjoy the holiday break and spend time with your family.

Miss Rose and I would like to wish all of you a Happy, Safe & Healthy Holiday, and Peace to One & All!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to stop by or call us at (860) 647-3306. We are available from 8:00 am – 10:30 am, or after we serve lunch, from 1:45 pm – 2:15 pm. You can also call the Office of Food and Nutrition at (860) 647-3462. The office is open from 8 am – 4:00 pm every school day.

Dale Schuetz  
Cafeteria Manager

# Recognition Board

## **RECOGNITION BOARD**

At Buckley School, we are recognizing more students! Across from the main office, our bulletin board will recognize more students through **Pillars of Character**. Each month, teachers will recognize students on this bulletin board with their picture! Please make sure you stop by to see these students!

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WERE RECOGNIZED FOR **PERSEVERANCE**:

- Spencer Johnson
- Nicole Jensen
- Corey Verranault
- Tyson Cummins
- Macai Costin

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WERE RECOGNIZED FOR **KINDNESS**:

- Anthony Gonzalez, Jairelez Rodriguez
- Shea Constock, Gabriel Johnson
- Samuel Johnson, Xavier Torres
- Kyle Zingler, Arjun Roy

THE FOLLOWING ARE BEING RECOGNIZED FOR **LEADERSHIP**:

- Maria Puniello, Elijah Bucko

Happy New Year from the Buckley PTA! We hope everyone has enjoyed their winter break! At our last meeting we heard the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. Ms. Brahm & Mrs. Jodoin speak along with their students. Wally Adamy, Noah Lindstrom, Analise Ortize and Aidan Smith shared what they liked most about 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Thanks to Kim DeBaise and Kayle Gagnon's hard work, our school book fair was a huge success! The PTA sold approximately \$6300.00 in books. Which means that we received about \$3000.00 in Scholastic Dollars! Thank you to all the teachers, students and their families who participated in this event. The PTA is predicting that we will be able to purchase 3 more smart boards for the school by year end! The PTA also purchased 35 books for Ms. Lake in the library. Mrs. Hoffman's class won the 2013 Change Challenge. They were awarded a basket with dozens of books and fun items for her class. Thank you to all the students who brought in their change! We collected over \$500.00 to be used for new library books!



The Holiday Store was enjoyed by all! Shelia Hall and Amy Cormier did a wonderful job organizing the event. There were countless volunteers who also made the day special for our students. We hope everyone enjoyed opening their special presents chosen by their Buckley students over winter break!



Please join us for our next PTA event Movie Night!!!! Don't go to Buckland come to Buckley on January 24<sup>th</sup>! We will be taking votes for the movie to be played. Information about the Movie Night and movie choices to follow.

**We hope to see you all at the next PTA meeting on Wednesday January 8th at 6:30 in the café! After the meeting there will be free raffle for some Buckley Spirit wear! Come and hear the Kindergarten teachers, their representatives and Principal Daly's report!**